GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2962
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2001
UPLINKING FACILITIES
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow foreign investment in the field of satellite channel;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of foreign investors alongwith terms and conditions of such investment;

(c) whether the above move will improve the functioning of broadcasting sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b) As per existing guidelines, the Government only accords permission for the uplinking of satellite channels from India. The companies incorporated in India, with the foreign equity holding including NRI/OCB/PIO notexceeding 49%, are permitted to set up uplinking hub (teleport) in India. However, all TV channels, including foreign satellite TV channels, irrespective of ownership (including equity structure or management control), are permitted to uplink from India subject to certain terms & conditions which, inter-alia include the following:

i) Comply with the Programme & Advertising Code .
ii) Security clearance by Ministry of Home Affairs.
iii) To maintain records of materials uplinked for a period of 90 days.
iv) To provide the necessary monitoring facility, at its own cost, for monitoring of the programme or content of the channel.
v) To uplink in C band only.

(c) & (d) The liberalized uplinking policy facilitates Indian news agencies and private Indian companies to bemore effective and competitive in the global scenario. Setting up of uplinking hub (teleports) in India would create a lot of employment opportunity and state-of-the-art communication infrastructure. It would bring such TV channels (Indian and foreign) under the ambit of Indian laws.